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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

SCOTT T. HACKER, Individually and
on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

ELECTRIC LAST MILE
SOLUTIONS, INC. F/K/A FORUM
MERGER III CORP., JAMES
TAYLOR, JASON LUO, DAVID
BORIS, MARSHALL KIEV, ALBERT
LI, and ROBERT SONG,

Defendants.

Case No:

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE
FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS**

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff Scott T. Hacker (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated, by Plaintiff’s undersigned attorneys, for Plaintiff’s complaint against Defendants (defined below), alleges the following based upon personal knowledge as to Plaintiff and Plaintiff’s own acts, and information and belief as to all other matters, based upon, *inter alia*, the investigation conducted by

and through his attorneys, which included, among other things, a review of the Defendants' public documents, conference calls and announcements made by Defendants, public filings, wire and press releases published by and regarding Electric Last Mile Solutions, Inc. f/k/a Forum Merger III Corp. ("ELMS" or the "Company"), and information readily obtainable on the Internet. Plaintiff believes that substantial evidentiary support will exist for the allegations set forth herein after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is a class action on behalf of persons or entities who purchased or otherwise acquired publicly traded ELMS securities between March 31, 2021 and February 1, 2022, inclusive (the "Class Period"). Plaintiff seeks to recover compensable damages caused by Defendants' violations of the federal securities laws under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. The claims asserted herein arise under and pursuant to Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 78j(b) and 78t(a)) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by the SEC (17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5).

3. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and Section 27 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. §78aa).

4. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and Section 27 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. § 78aa(c)) as the alleged misstatements entered and the subsequent damages took place in this judicial district.

5. In connection with the acts, conduct and other wrongs alleged in this complaint, Defendants, directly or indirectly, used the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, including but not limited to, the United States mails, interstate telephone communications and the facilities of the national securities exchange.

PARTIES

6. Plaintiff, as set forth in the accompanying certification, incorporated by reference herein, purchased ELMS securities during the Class Period and was economically damaged thereby.

7. ELMS purports to be a pure-play commercial electric vehicle company. On June 25, 2021, Electric Last Mile, Inc. and Forum Merger III Corp., a special purpose acquisition company (“SPAC”) or blank check company, closed the merger (the “Merger”) which resulted in ELMS.

8. The Company is incorporated in Delaware and its head office is located at 1055 W. Square Lake Road, Troy, MI, 48098. ELMS’s common stock trades on the NASDAQ under the ticker symbol “ELMS” and ELMS’s warrants trade on the

NASDAQ under the ticker symbol “ELMSW.” Prior to the Merger, the Company’s securities traded on the NASDAQ under the ticker symbols “FIII,” “FIIIU,” and “FIIIW.”

9. Defendant James Taylor (“Taylor”) served as the Company’s Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) following the Merger until February 1, 2022. Prior to the Merger, Defendant Taylor was Electric Last Mile, Inc.’s co-founder and CEO.

10. Defendant Jason Luo (“Luo”) served as the Company’s Executive Chairman following the Merger until February 1, 2022. Prior to the Merger, Defendant Luo was Electric Last Mile, Inc.’s co-founder and Executive Chairman.

11. Defendant David Boris (“Boris”) served as the Company’s Co-Chief Executive Officer (“Co-CEO”), Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”), and as a Director at all relevant times prior to the Merger and continues to serve as a Director of ELMS.

12. Defendant Marshall Kiev (“Kiev”) served as the Company’s Co-CEO at all relevant times prior to the Merger.

13. Defendant Albert Li (“Li”) served as the Company’s CFO from June 2021 through November 2021.

14. Defendant Robert Song (“Song”) has served as the Company’s CFO and Treasurer since November 2021.

15. Defendants Taylor, Luo, Boris, Kiev, Li, and Song are collectively referred to herein as the “Individual Defendants.”

16. Each of the Individual Defendants:

- (a) directly participated in the management of the Company;
- (b) was directly involved in the day-to-day operations of the Company at the highest levels;
- (c) was privy to confidential proprietary information concerning the Company and its business and operations;
- (d) was directly or indirectly involved in drafting, producing, reviewing and/or disseminating the false and misleading statements and information alleged herein;
- (e) was directly or indirectly involved in the oversight or implementation of the Company’s internal controls;
- (f) was aware of or recklessly disregarded the fact that the false and misleading statements were being issued concerning the Company; and/or
- (g) approved or ratified these statements in violation of the federal securities laws.

17. The Company is liable for the acts of the Individual Defendants and its employees under the doctrine of *respondeat superior* and common law principles

of agency because all of the wrongful acts complained of herein were carried out within the scope of their employment.

18. The scienter of the Individual Defendants and other employees and agents of the Company is similarly imputed to the Company under *respondeat superior* and agency principles.

19. The Company and the Individual Defendants are collectively referred to herein as “Defendants.”

SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

Materially False and Misleading Statements Issued During the Class Period

20. On March 31, 2021, the Company filed with the SEC its annual report for the year ended December 31, 2020 (the “2020 Annual Report”) signed by Defendant Boris. Attached to the 2020 Annual Report were certifications pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (“SOX”) signed by Defendants Kiev and Boris attesting to the accuracy of financial reporting, the disclosure of any material changes to the Company’s internal control over financial reporting and the disclosure of all fraud.

21. The 2020 Annual Report contained the following financial statements:

FORUM MERGER III CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	December 31	
	2020	2019
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 1,555,497	\$ 19,810
Prepaid expenses	157,486	—
Total Current Assets	1,712,983	19,810
Deferred offering costs	—	62,726
Cash and marketable securities held in Trust Account	250,066,590	—
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 251,779,573	\$ 82,536
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities		
Accrued expenses	\$ 3,329,929	\$ 1,966
Accrued offering costs	—	57,726
Total Current Liabilities	3,329,929	59,692
Deferred underwriting fee payable	8,750,000	—
TOTAL LIABILITIES	12,079,929	59,692
Commitments and Contingencies		
Class A common stock subject to possible redemption, 23,469,964 and none shares at redemption value as of December 31, 2020	234,699,640	—
Stockholders' Equity		
Preferred stock, \$0.0001 par value; 1,000,000 shares authorized, none issued and outstanding	—	—
Class A common stock, \$0.0001 par value; 100,000,000 shares authorized; 2,271,286 and none issued and outstanding (excluding 23,469,964 and none shares subject to possible redemption) as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively	227	—
Class B common stock, \$0.0001 par value; 10,000,000 shares authorized; 6,250,000 and 7,187,500 shares issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively ⁽¹⁾	625	719
Additional paid-in capital	8,551,740	24,281
Accumulated deficit	(3,552,588)	(2,156)
Total Stockholders' Equity	5,000,004	22,844
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	\$ 251,779,573	\$ 82,536

(1) At December 31, 2019, the shares issued and outstanding include 937,500 shares of Class B common stock forfeited on October 5, 2020 as a result of the expiration of the underwriter's option to exercise their over-allotment (see Note 5).

FORUM MERGER III CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

	Year Ended December 31, 2020	For the Period from June 25, 2019 (Inception) Through December 31, 2019
Formation and operational costs	\$ 3,617,022	\$ 2,156
Loss from operations	(3,617,022)	(2,156)
Other income:		
Interest earned on marketable securities held in Trust Account	66,590	—
Net loss	\$ (3,550,432)	\$ (2,156)
Weighted average shares outstanding of Class A redeemable common stock	25,000,000	—
Basic and diluted net income per share, Class A	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Weighted average shares outstanding of Class A and Class B non-redeemable common stock ⁽¹⁾	6,518,068	6,250,000
Basic and diluted net loss per share, Class A and Class B non-redeemable common stock	\$ (0.54)	\$ (0.00)

(1) At December 31, 2019, the weighted average shares outstanding include up to 937,500 shares of Class B common stock forfeited on October 5, 2020 as a result of the expiration of the underwriter's option to exercise their over-allotment (see Note 5).

FORUM MERGER III CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

	Class A Common Stock		Class B Common Stock		Additional Paid-in Capital	Stock Subscription Receivable from Stockholder	Accumulated Deficit	Total Stockholders' Equity
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount				
Balance – June 25, 2019	—	\$ —	—	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Issuance of Class B common stock to Sponsor ⁽¹⁾	—	—	7,187,500	719	24,281	(25,000)	—	—
Collection of stock subscription receivable from stockholder	—	—	—	—	—	25,000	—	25,000
Net loss	—	—	—	—	—	—	(2,156)	(2,156)
Balance – December 31, 2019	—	—	7,187,500	719	24,281	—	(2,156)	22,844
Sale of 25,000,000 Units, net of underwriting discounts	25,000,000	2,500	—	—	235,812,232	—	—	235,814,732
Sale of 741,250 Private Placement Units	741,250	74	—	—	7,412,426	—	—	7,412,500
Forfeiture of Founder Shares	—	—	(937,500)	(94)	94	—	—	—
Class A common stock subject to possible redemption	(23,469,964)	(2,347)	—	—	(234,697,293)	—	—	(234,699,640)
Net loss	—	—	—	—	—	—	(3,550,432)	(3,550,432)
Balance – December 31, 2020	2,271,286	\$ 227	6,250,000	\$ 625	\$ 8,551,740	\$ —	\$ (3,552,588)	\$ 5,000,004

(1) Includes 937,500 shares of Class B common stock forfeited on October 5, 2020 as a result of the expiration of the underwriter's option to exercise their over-allotment (see Note 5).

FORUM MERGER III CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	Year Ended December 31, 2020	For the Period from June 25, 2019 (Inception) Through December 31, 2019
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:		
Net loss	\$ (3,550,432)	\$ (2,156)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Interest earned on marketable securities held in Trust Account	(66,590)	—
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Prepaid expenses	(157,486)	—
Accrued expenses	3,327,963	1,966
Net cash used in operating activities	(446,545)	(190)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:		
Investment of cash into Trust Account	(250,000,000)	—
Net cash used in investing activities	(250,000,000)	—
Cash Flows from Financing Activities:		
Proceeds from issuance of Class B common stock to Sponsor	—	25,000
Proceeds from sale of Units, net of underwriting discounts paid	245,000,000	—
Proceeds from sale of Private Placement Units	7,412,500	—
Proceeds from promissory note – related party	40,000	—
Repayment of promissory note – related party	(40,000)	—
Payment of offering costs	(430,268)	(5,000)
Net cash provided by financing activities	251,982,232	20,000
Net Change in Cash	1,535,687	19,810
Cash – Beginning of period	19,810	—
Cash – End of period	\$ 1,555,497	\$ 19,810
Non-cash investing and financing activities:		
Offering costs included in accrued offering costs	\$ —	\$ 57,726
Initial classification of Class A common stock subject to possible redemption	\$ 238,249,360	—
Change in value of Class A common stock subject to possible redemption	\$ (3,549,720)	—
Deferred underwriting fee payable	\$ 8,750,000	—

22. On May 7, 2021, the Company filed with the SEC an amendment to its 2020 Annual Report on Form 10-K/A (the “2020 Amendment”) signed by Defendant Boris. Attached to the 2020 Amendment were certifications pursuant to SOX signed by Defendants Kiev and Boris attesting to the accuracy of financial reporting, the disclosure of any material changes to the Company’s internal control over financial reporting and the disclosure of all fraud.

23. The 2020 Amendment contained the following financial statements:

FORUM MERGER III CORPORATION CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS		
	December 31	
	2020	2019
	(As Restated)	
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 1,555,497	\$ 19,810
Prepaid expenses	157,486	—
Total Current Assets	1,712,983	19,810
Deferred offering costs	—	62,726
Cash and marketable securities held in Trust Account	250,066,590	—
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 251,779,573	\$ 82,536
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities		
Accrued expenses	\$ 3,329,929	\$ 1,966
Accrued offering costs	—	57,726
Total Current Liabilities	3,329,929	59,692
Deferred underwriting fee payable	8,750,000	—
Warrant liabilities	29,859,848	—
TOTAL LIABILITIES	41,939,777	59,692
Commitments and Contingencies		
Class A common stock subject to possible redemption, 20,483,979 and none shares at redemption value as of December 31, 2020	204,839,790	—
Stockholders' Equity		
Preferred stock, \$0.0001 par value; 1,000,000 shares authorized, none issued and outstanding	—	—
Class A common stock, \$0.0001 par value; 100,000,000 shares authorized; 5,257,271 and none issued and outstanding (excluding 20,483,979 and none shares subject to possible redemption) as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively	526	—
Class B common stock, \$0.0001 par value; 10,000,000 shares authorized; 6,250,000 and 7,187,500 shares issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively ⁽¹⁾	625	719
Additional paid-in capital	34,362,236	24,281
Accumulated deficit	(29,363,381)	(2,156)
Total Stockholders' Equity	5,000,006	22,844
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	\$ 251,779,573	\$ 82,536

(1) At December 31, 2019, the shares issued and outstanding includes 937,500 shares of Class B common stock forfeited on October 5, 2020 as a result of the expiration of the underwriter's option to exercise their over-allotment (see Note 6).

FORUM MERGER III CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

	Class A Common Stock		Class B Common Stock		Additional Paid-in Capital	Stock Subscription Receivable from Stockholder	Accumulated Deficit	Total Stockholders' Equity
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount				
Balance – June 25, 2019	—	\$ —	—	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Issuance of Class B common stock to Sponsor ⁽¹⁾	—	—	7,187,500	719	24,281	(25,000)	—	—
Collection of stock subscription receivable from stockholder	—	—	—	—	—	25,000	—	25,000
Net loss	—	—	—	—	—	—	(2,156)	(2,156)
Balance – December 31, 2019	—	—	7,187,500	719	24,281	—	(2,156)	22,844
Sale of 25,000,000 Units, net of underwriting discounts and public warrant liabilities	25,000,000	2,500	—	—	231,881,777	—	—	231,884,277
Sale of 741,250 Private Placement Units, net of private placement warrant liabilities	741,250	74	—	—	7,293,826	—	—	7,293,900
Forfeiture of Founder Shares	—	—	(937,500)	(94)	94	—	—	—
Class A common stock subject to possible redemption	(20,483,979)	(2,048)	—	—	(204,837,742)	—	—	(204,839,790)
Net loss	—	—	—	—	—	—	(29,361,225)	(29,361,225)
Balance – December 31, 2020 (As Restated)	5,257,271	\$ 526	6,250,000	\$ 625	\$ 34,362,236	\$ —	\$ (29,363,381)	\$ 5,000,006

(1) Includes 937,500 shares of Class B common stock forfeited on October 5, 2020 as a result of the expiration of the underwriter's option to exercise their over-allotment (see Note 6).

24. On May 26, 2021, the Company filed with the SEC its quarterly report for the period ended March 31, 2021 (the "1Q21 Report") signed by Defendants Kiev and Boris. Attached to the 1Q21 Report were certifications pursuant to SOX signed by Defendants Kiev and Boris attesting to the accuracy of financial reporting, the disclosure of any material changes to the Company's internal control over financial reporting and the disclosure of all fraud.

25. The 1Q21 Report contained the following financial statements:

FORUM MERGER III CORPORATION
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	March 31, 2021 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2020
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 1,038,353	\$ 1,555,497
Prepaid expenses	174,124	157,486
Total Current Assets	1,212,477	1,712,983
Cash and marketable securities held in Trust Account	250,004,042	250,066,590
Total Assets	\$ 251,216,519	\$ 251,779,573
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities - Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 3,815,030	\$ 3,329,929
Deferred underwriting fee payable	8,750,000	8,750,000
Warrant liabilities	16,325,028	29,859,848
Total Liabilities	28,890,058	41,939,777
Commitments and Contingencies		
Class A common stock subject to possible redemption, 21,732,646 and 20,483,979 shares at redemption value as of March 31, 2021 and December 31, 2020, respectively	217,326,460	204,839,790
Stockholders' Equity		
Preferred stock, \$0.0001 par value; 1,000,000 shares authorized; none issued or outstanding	—	—
Class A common stock, \$0.0001 par value; 100,000,000 shares authorized; 4,008,604 and 5,257,271 issued and outstanding (excluding 21,732,646 and 20,483,979, none shares subject to possible redemption) as of March 31, 2021 and December 31, 2020, respectively	401	526
Class B common stock, \$0.0001 par value; 10,000,000 shares authorized; 6,250,000 shares issued and outstanding as of March 31, 2021 and December 31, 2020	625	625
Additional paid-in capital	21,875,691	34,362,236
Accumulated deficit	(16,876,716)	(29,363,381)
Total Stockholders' Equity	5,000,001	5,000,006
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	\$ 251,216,519	\$ 251,779,573

26. On August 13, 2021, the Company filed with the SEC its quarterly report for the period ended June 30, 2021 (the “2Q21 Report”) signed by Defendants Taylor and Li. Attached to the 2Q21 Report were certifications pursuant to SOX signed by Defendants Taylor and Li attesting to the accuracy of financial reporting, the disclosure of any material changes to the Company’s internal control over financial reporting and the disclosure of all fraud.

27. The 2Q21 Report contained the following financial statements:

ELECTRIC LAST MILE SOLUTIONS, INC.
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (in thousands, except par value and share data)

	Successor		Predecessor
	June 30, 2021 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2020
ASSETS			
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 171,529	\$ 25,205	\$ —
Restricted cash	45,902	—	—
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	3,809	—	42
Inventories	824	—	—
Total current assets	222,064	25,205	42
Property, plant and equipment, net	191,966	—	131,908
Intangibles and other assets, net	6,802	38	—
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 420,832	\$ 25,243	\$ 131,950
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY (DEFICIT)			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 7,076	\$ 1,345	\$ 178
Accrued expenses	2,741	5,532	1,233
Current portion of land contract and promissory note	66,658	—	—
Total current liabilities	76,475	6,877	1,411
Convertible promissory notes	—	25,094	—
Land contract and promissory note obligations, net of current portion	42,716	—	—
Warrant liabilities	19,447	—	—
Pension benefit obligation	114	—	109
Other long-term liabilities	443	—	—
Total liabilities	139,195	31,971	1,520
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES			
Predecessor parent's net investment	—	—	130,430
Preferred stock, \$0.0001 par value; 100 million shares authorized; none issued or outstanding.	—	—	—
Common stock, \$0.0001 par value; 1 billion shares authorized; 124,027,012 issued and 118,777,012 outstanding at June 30, 2021 and 82,117,288 issued and outstanding at December 31, 2020.	12	8	—
Additional paid-in capital	301,467	992	—
Accumulated deficit	(19,842)	(7,728)	—
Total shareholders' equity (deficit)	281,637	(6,728)	130,430
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$ 420,832	\$ 25,243	\$ 131,950

28. The 2Q21 Report stated the following, in relevant part, regarding Defendant Luo's dealings:

On June 23, 2021, an entity controlled by Jason Luo sold 6,097 common shares of ELM [Electric Last Mile, In.] back to ELM for the original purchase price of \$10.00 per share or a total of \$61 thousand, prior to and in connection with the issuance of 5,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock to SERES upon the closing of the Business Combination pursuant to the SERES Asset Purchase Agreement. This transaction was presented in the condensed consolidated statement of changes in shareholders' equity (deficit) retroactively applying the exchange ratio from the Business Combination.

29. On November 12, 2021, the Company filed with the SEC its quarterly report for the period ended September 30, 2021 (the “3Q21 Report”) signed by Defendants Taylor and Song. Attached to the 3Q21 Report were certifications pursuant to SOX signed by Defendants Taylor and Song attesting to the accuracy of financial reporting, the disclosure of any material changes to the Company’s internal control over financial reporting and the disclosure of all fraud.

30. The 3Q21 Report contained the following financial statements:

ELECTRIC LAST MILE SOLUTIONS, INC. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (in thousands, except par value and share data)			
	Successor		Predecessor
	September 30, 2021 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2020
ASSETS			
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 143,154	\$ 25,205	\$ —
Restricted cash	27,750	—	—
Accounts receivable	136	—	—
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	8,503	—	42
Inventories	7,579	—	—
Total current assets	187,122	25,205	42
Property, plant and equipment, net	192,736	—	131,908
Intangibles and other assets, net	6,124	38	—
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 385,982	\$ 25,243	\$ 131,950
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY (DEFICIT)			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 7,757	\$ 1,345	\$ 178
Accrued expenses	10,386	5,532	1,233
Current portion of land contract and promissory note	54,286	—	—
Total current liabilities	72,429	6,877	1,411
Convertible promissory notes	—	25,094	—
Land contract and promissory note obligations, net of current portion	29,800	—	—
Warrant liabilities	14,243	—	—
Pension benefit obligation	90	—	109
Other long-term liabilities	451	—	—
Total liabilities	117,013	31,971	1,520
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES			
Predecessor parent's net investment	—	—	130,430
Preferred stock, \$0.0001 par value; 100 million shares authorized; none issued or outstanding.	—	—	—
Common stock, \$0.0001 par value; 1 billion shares authorized; 124,027,012 issued and 118,777,012 outstanding at September 30, 2021 and 82,117,288 issued and outstanding at December 31, 2020.	12	8	—
Additional paid-in capital	306,578	992	—
Accumulated deficit	(37,621)	(7,728)	—
Total shareholders' equity (deficit)	268,969	(6,728)	130,430
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$ 385,982	\$ 25,243	\$ 131,950

31. The statements contained in ¶¶ 20-30 were materially false and/or misleading because they misrepresented and failed to disclose the following adverse facts pertaining to the Company's business, operations and prospects, which were known to Defendants or recklessly disregarded by them. Specifically, Defendants made false and/or misleading statements and/or failed to disclose that: (1) ELMS's previously issued financial statements were false and unreliable; (2) ELMS's earlier reported financial statements would need restatement; (3) certain EMLS executives and/or directors purchased equity in the Company at substantial discounts to market value without obtaining an independent valuation; (4) on November 25, 2021 (Thanksgiving), the Company's Board formed an independent Special Committee to conduct an inquiry into certain sales of equity securities made by and to individuals associated with the Company; and (5) as a result, Defendants' statements about its business, operations, and prospects, were materially false and misleading and/or lacked a reasonable basis at all relevant times.

THE TRUTH EMERGES

32. On February 2, 2022, after trading hours, the Company issued a press release entitled "Electric Last Mile Solutions Announces Leadership Transition and Financial Update" which announced changes to its leadership and that certain of its financial statements needed restatement, stating the following, in relevant part:

*Transition Follows Resignation of CEO and President James Taylor
and Chairman Jason Luo*

Company Advises Non-Reliance on Financial Statements, Which Will be Restated

Electric Last Mile Solutions, Inc. (Nasdaq: ELMS; ELMSW) (“ELMS” or “the Company”), a pioneer of electric and intelligent mobility solutions for commercial vehicle customers, today announced that Shauna McIntyre, a member of the Company’s Board of Directors, has been appointed as Interim Chief Executive Officer and President, *succeeding James Taylor, who has resigned from his role as Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board.* In addition, Brian Krzanich has been appointed Non-Executive Chairman of the Board, *replacing Jason Luo, who has also resigned from his position as Executive Chairman of the Board. The departures follow an investigation conducted by a Special Committee of the Board of Directors (the “Special Committee”).*

On November 25, 2021, the Company’s Board formed an independent Special Committee to conduct an inquiry into certain sales of equity securities made by and to individuals associated with the Company, the legal, disclosure and tax consequences of those transactions, and other issues that arose in connection those sales. Based on the Special Committee’s investigation, the Company has concluded that in November and December 2020, shortly before the Company’s December 10, 2020 announcement of a definitive agreement for a business combination with Forum Merger III Corporation, certain Electric Last Mile Inc. executives purchased equity in the Company at substantial discounts to market value without obtaining an independent valuation. Mr. Taylor purchased equity in these transactions. Mr. Luo participated in these and other transactions and directly or indirectly purchased and sold equity in such transactions.

In addition, on January 26, 2022, on the basis of the Special Committee investigation, the Board concluded that the Company’s previously issued consolidated financial statements should be restated and, therefore, should no longer be relied upon. The financial statements in question cover the period as of December 31, 2020, the period from August 20, 2020 (inception) through December 31, 2020, the six months ended June 30, and the nine months ended September 30, 2021. In connection with this conclusion, the Company, together

with its advisors, is evaluating the accounting and treatment of certain equity issuances to executive officers. Although the Company cannot, at this time, estimate when it will file its restated financial statements for such periods, it is diligently pursuing completion of the restatement, including with respect to an evaluation of the Company's financial statement reserves for tax payments and contingencies.

(Emphasis added.)

33. On this news, the Company's share price fell \$2.88 per share, or 51%, to close at \$2.71 per share on February 2, 2022, on unusually heavy trading volume, damaging investors.

34. As a result of Defendants' wrongful acts and omissions, and the precipitous decline in the market value of the Company's securities, Plaintiff and other Class members have suffered significant losses and damages.

PLAINTIFF'S CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

35. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b)(3) on behalf of a class consisting of all persons other than defendants who acquired ELMS securities publicly traded on NASDAQ during the Class Period, and who were damaged thereby (the "Class"). Excluded from the Class are Defendants, the officers and directors of the Company, members of the Individual Defendants' immediate families and their legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns and any entity in which Defendants have or had a controlling interest.

36. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Throughout the Class Period, ELMS securities were actively traded on NASDAQ. While the exact number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time and can be ascertained only through appropriate discovery, Plaintiff believes that there are hundreds, if not thousands of members in the proposed Class.

37. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class as all members of the Class are similarly affected by Defendants' wrongful conduct in violation of federal law that is complained of herein.

38. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class and has retained counsel competent and experienced in class and securities litigation. Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to or in conflict with those of the Class.

39. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and predominate over any questions solely affecting individual members of the Class. Among the questions of law and fact common to the Class are:

- whether the Exchange Act was violated by Defendants' acts as alleged herein;

- whether statements made by Defendants to the investing public during the Class Period misrepresented material facts about the business and financial condition of the Company;
- whether Defendants' public statements to the investing public during the Class Period omitted material facts necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading;
- whether the Defendants caused the Company to issue false and misleading filings during the Class Period;
- whether Defendants acted knowingly or recklessly in issuing false filings;
- whether the prices of ELMS securities during the Class Period were artificially inflated because of the Defendants' conduct complained of herein; and
- whether the members of the Class have sustained damages and, if so, what is the proper measure of damages.

40. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all members is impracticable. Furthermore, as the damages suffered by individual Class members may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation make it

impossible for members of the Class to individually redress the wrongs done to them. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as a class action.

41. Plaintiff will rely, in part, upon the presumption of reliance established by the fraud-on-the-market doctrine in that:

- ELMS securities met the requirements for listing, and were listed and actively traded on NASDAQ, an efficient market;
- As a public issuer, the Company filed public reports;
- the Company communicated with public investors via established market communication mechanisms, including through the regular dissemination of press releases via major newswire services and through other wide-ranging public disclosures, such as communications with the financial press and other similar reporting services;
- the Company's securities were liquid and traded with moderate to heavy volume during the Class Period; and
- the Company was followed by a number of securities analysts employed by major brokerage firms who wrote reports that were widely distributed and publicly available.

42. Based on the foregoing, the market for the Company securities promptly digested current information regarding the Company from all publicly

available sources and reflected such information in the prices of the common units, and Plaintiff and the members of the Class are entitled to a presumption of reliance upon the integrity of the market.

43. Alternatively, Plaintiff and the members of the Class are entitled to the presumption of reliance established by the Supreme Court in *Affiliated Ute Citizens of the State of Utah v. United States*, 406 U.S. 128 (1972), as Defendants omitted material information in their Class Period statements in violation of a duty to disclose such information as detailed above.

COUNT I
For Violations of Section 10(b) And Rule 10b-5 Promulgated Thereunder
Against All Defendants

44. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained above as if fully set forth herein.

45. This Count is asserted against Defendants is based upon Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by the SEC.

46. During the Class Period, Defendants, individually and in concert, directly or indirectly, disseminated or approved the false statements specified above, which they knew or deliberately disregarded were misleading in that they contained misrepresentations and failed to disclose material facts necessary in order

to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

47. Defendants violated §10(b) of the 1934 Act and Rule 10b-5 in that they:

- employed devices, schemes and artifices to defraud;
- made untrue statements of material facts or omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- engaged in acts, practices and a course of business that operated as a fraud or deceit upon plaintiff and others similarly situated in connection with their purchases of the Company's securities during the Class Period.

48. Defendants acted with scienter in that they knew that the public documents and statements issued or disseminated in the name of the Company were materially false and misleading; knew that such statements or documents would be issued or disseminated to the investing public; and knowingly and substantially participated, or acquiesced in the issuance or dissemination of such statements or documents as primary violations of the securities laws. These defendants by virtue of their receipt of information reflecting the true facts of the Company, their control

over, and/or receipt and/or modification of the Company's allegedly materially misleading statements, and/or their associations with the Company which made them privy to confidential proprietary information concerning the Company, participated in the fraudulent scheme alleged herein.

49. Individual Defendants, who are or were senior executives and/or directors of the Company, had actual knowledge of the material omissions and/or the falsity of the material statements set forth above, and intended to deceive Plaintiff and the other members of the Class, or, in the alternative, acted with reckless disregard for the truth when they failed to ascertain and disclose the true facts in the statements made by them or other ELMS personnel to members of the investing public, including Plaintiff and the Class.

50. As a result of the foregoing, the market price of ELMS securities was artificially inflated during the Class Period. In ignorance of the falsity of Defendants' statements, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class relied on the statements described above and/or the integrity of the market price of ELMS securities during the Class Period in purchasing ELMS securities at prices that were artificially inflated as a result of Defendants' false and misleading statements.

51. Had Plaintiff and the other members of the Class been aware that the market price of ELMS securities had been artificially and falsely inflated by

Defendants' misleading statements and by the material adverse information which Defendants did not disclose, they would not have purchased Company securities at the artificially inflated prices that they did, or at all.

52. As a result of the wrongful conduct alleged herein, Plaintiff and other members of the Class have suffered damages in an amount to be established at trial.

53. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants have violated Section 10(b) of the 1934 Act and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder and are liable to the plaintiff and the other members of the Class for substantial damages which they suffered in connection with their purchase of ELMS securities during the Class Period.

COUNT II
Violations of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act
Against the Individual Defendants

54. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

55. During the Class Period, the Individual Defendants participated in the operation and management of the Company, and conducted and participated, directly and indirectly, in the conduct of the Company's business affairs. Because of their senior positions, they knew the adverse non-public information about the Company's misstatement of revenue and profit and false financial statements.

56. As officers of a public business, the Individual Defendants had a duty to disseminate accurate and truthful information with respect to the Company's

financial condition and results of operations, and to correct promptly any public statements issued by the Company which had become materially false or misleading.

57. Because of their positions of control and authority as senior executives and/or directors, the Individual Defendants were able to, and did, control the contents of the various reports, press releases and public filings which the Company disseminated in the marketplace during the Class Period concerning the Company's results of operations. Throughout the Class Period, the Individual Defendants exercised their power and authority to cause the Company to engage in the wrongful acts complained of herein. The Individual Defendants therefore, were "controlling persons" of the Company within the meaning of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act. In this capacity, they participated in the unlawful conduct alleged which artificially inflated the market price of Company securities.

58. By reason of the above conduct, the Individual Defendants are liable pursuant to Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act for the violations committed by the Company.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Class, prays for judgment and relief as follows:

(a) declaring this action to be a proper class action, designating plaintiff as Lead Plaintiff and certifying plaintiff as a class representative under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and designating plaintiff's counsel as Lead Counsel;

(b) awarding damages in favor of plaintiff and the other Class members against all defendants, jointly and severally, together with interest thereon;

(c) awarding plaintiff and the Class reasonable costs and expenses incurred in this action, including counsel fees and expert fees; and

(d) awarding plaintiff and other members of the Class such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

Dated: February 3, 2022

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